



16 January 2019

**To Parents, Guardians and Students of the Senior School and Sixth Form,**

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a fabulous Christmas and New Year and I send you my very best wishes for 2019.

I started the year talking to the Senior girls about a book which I was given for Christmas, "Becoming Michelle Obama". In the preface there is a sentence which reads, "Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own". Our work at College is captured, in essence, by this sentence, as we aim to encourage each girl to grow in confidence, enjoy her talents to the full and value the qualities of others and to provide an environment in which girls grow up happily, develop wide interests and make lifelong friends. I recommend the book to you.

May I also thank everyone who supported events at the end of the term and a special thank you to the PTA and the girls for raising £2,375 at the Christmas Fayre, which will be shared between the PTA, College and the Crisis charity.

**Staffing update**

We welcome back Mr Tom McGovern and Miss Ingrid Ellen who were both absent in the Michaelmas term.

Mrs Helen Bailey gave birth to a son, Sam on the 29th December and we send our best wishes to her and her family.

Mr Jose Martires has joined us to cover Mrs Bailey's maternity leave.

We will shortly be advertising roles required for September and, at the time of writing, we are hopeful there will be few changes compared with last year, when we bade farewell to a number of colleagues retiring after many years of loyal service to the College.

**Attendance, punctuality and absence due to illness**

Thank you for supporting your daughter in attending College regularly and ensuring that she can arrive in time to organise herself before the start of the working day. Road closures can present challenges and we are grateful for the changes in routine that help maintain punctuality in these circumstances.

I would like to remind you that if your daughter shows symptoms of the diarrhoea and vomiting bugs which can be so common at this time of year, she should remain at home until she has been free of

symptoms for forty-eight hours. This is crucial in preventing the spread of illness in a school environment and we would ask all families to support our community by respecting this policy.

### **Homework time-tables**

Year Co-ordinators have recently reviewed homework time-tables with the girls and with colleagues. Please do keep us posted if homework is being set on the “wrong” night and we will follow this up. We are aware the girls have many commitments and that in order for them to manage their time and plan effectively, we need to apply our homework policy consistently. With this in mind, we send our best wishes to students involved in the Guernsey Festival of Dance and the Eisteddfod.

### **PSHEE**

PSHEE is a key part of the curriculum, complemented by assemblies and cross-curricular links to other subjects. For interest, the topics currently being covered are:

- **Remove:** Personal finance / pocket money
- **Lower Four:** Alcohol awareness
- **Upper Four:** Sexual health

Upper Four are also being invited to pilot a course with the Youth Sports Trust called “**Get exam fit**”. The course aims to support progress and attainment across the whole school and seeks to tackle declining emotional wellbeing and resilience to enable young people to manage stress effectively. We would like Upper Four to take part and have a small hardship fund which can be accessed to meet the costs, if required. Once we have evaluated the impact of this with the girls, we will consider rolling this out to other students in the future.

- **Lower Five:** Well-being
- **Upper Five:** Study skills

### **Adverse Weather Plans**

It is hard to plan for all eventualities, but the following points summarize what we will aim to do in the event of adverse weather.

#### **Overnight snow and ice**

- When snow has fallen overnight, we will communicate decisions about school closure/late start time no later than 07:15. Communication will be via our website, Facebook, Twitter, Radio Guernsey and Island FM.
- We will consider external advice, but in principle we will aim to stay open and colleagues who feel they can get into College will supervise girls who come in.
- Colleagues will set appropriate work for students to complete either in College or at home. If you feel your daughter can travel to and from College safely (following advice issued by the Police, for example), she will be supervised by teachers who have been able to attend. If she stays at home work will be accessible via her College email account, Microsoft Teams or work will have been set in previous lessons.

- Students are also encouraged to enjoy the snow, read or research topics that are of interest to them, with a suggestion that the news or newspaper may provide an interesting stimulus for them, as well as considering how they might support those in the Guernsey community who may find the snowy conditions a personal challenge.
- If your daughter comes into College, please be aware we may have limited or indeed no access to The Core, so packed food/drink is required.

### **Snow during the day**

- When snow falls during the day, we will monitor the weather conditions and once again aim to stay open until the normal time. Communication will come via the College website, Facebook, Twitter and Group Call. We will not ask, nor do we expect your daughter/s to give you this information and are keen to avoid the situation where parents arrive at their daughter's request outside of our own advice.

### **Uniform**

In the event of snow, students are encouraged to wear footwear and outer clothing which keeps them safe and warm.

We would also like to remind students about the importance of being visible to traffic when it is dark, coming to and from school, waiting for a bus, or to be collected. We advise girls to wear reflective stripes or high-visibility jackets over their uniform. We will shortly be reviewing the uniform policy and your views are always welcome. We are especially interested in hearing your views about the winter coat. Please send any thoughts to me by return.

May we also remind you that your daughter may only wear one small pair of (pierced) earrings in each lobe and that these may not be worn for PE lessons, for hygiene and safety reasons.

### **The Giving Machine**

Thank you to those who have already registered to order from eBay, John Lewis, Amazon and many other retailers via TheGivingMachine. As well as online shopping we would encourage you to use TheGivingMachine when booking flights and holidays which, in turn, generates donations towards the developmental work linked to The Gift for Learning. Please access TheGivingMachine via this link:

[https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/the-ladies-college-guernsey.](https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/the-ladies-college-guernsey)

### **Out of This World Fundraising Ball - 19 January 2019**

I look forward to seeing many of you at this event on Saturday at Beau Sejour. The evening starts promptly at 18.30 with the drinks reception, at which much of the entertainment will be provided by our students. Thank you to everyone involved in organising the event and also for the generous raffle prizes.

### **PTA**

Our PTA are currently collecting school uniform which is no longer required, to add to their second-hand uniform chest. If you have items to donate, please send them to the College office and the PTA will collect from there. Thank you.

## Weekly Bulletin and online calendar

In addition to our weekly bulletin, we encourage you to visit: <http://www.ladiescollege.com/diary> for key dates, or access our calendar in full (from an iPad or iPhone) please see the below links:

### How to (PDF):

<http://www.ladiescollege.com/media/91650/How-to-add-new-calendar-The-Ladies-College.pdf>

### Direct link to view online:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/0a8cd829e7d1405291734842ae5ae648@ladiescollege.ac.gg/0addae2c087a489185523cf17790b26f6974755477370769068/calendar.html>

### ICS file for devices:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/0a8cd829e7d1405291734842ae5ae648@ladiescollege.ac.gg/0addae2c087a489185523cf17790b26f6974755477370769068/calendar.ics>

## Principals' Lecture

All Sixth Form students at The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College are required to attend two Principals' Lecture each year. The speakers are always interesting and informative, but on Monday 21 January 2019 at 18:00, we will have the honour of welcoming astrophysicist **Dame Jocelyn Bell-Brunell** to speak to the students in The Ladies' College Hall. Parents are most welcome to join us in order to hear Dame Jocelyn, whose work in the field of pulsars has been described as "one of the most significant scientific achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century."

## Strictly Come College Dancing

Following an extremely successful Strictly Come College Dancing evening in 2017, I am delighted to tell you that colleagues have, once again, dusted down their dancing shoes and committed to entertain you this spring. Once again there will be two performances, with the glitter ball being awarded to the winning couple. The planned dates and times for this are:

Friday 8 March 2019 at 19:00 in the College Hall  
Saturday 9 March 2019 at 16:00 in the College Hall

You will receive further information about securing tickets, yet you may want to pencil in the dates for this "must see" event.

## Car parking and access to the site

Thank you for adhering to the speed limit of 5 mph on the College site and also for accessing the site only as outlined below. This avoids congestion, allows colleagues to get into work and ensures Melrose pupils can arrive and depart safely.

- Parents/Guardians with Senior and Sixth Form students should not drive onto site from Monday to Friday between 07:30 - 09:00 and 14:30 - 17:00.
- The only exceptions to the above are for students who have a large instrument which is difficult to carry, those who are on crutches, who are carrying large amounts of sports equipment or who have an illness which impacts on their mobility and for which we have a Doctor's letter. In these instances, please drop-off before 08:00 and collect after 16:15 wherever possible (15:45 on a Friday). Please apply in writing should you wish your daughter to be added to this list.

Principal  
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Vice Principal, Bursar & Clerk to the Governors  
Miss E Bridge MA Oxon, ACA  
Email: [bursar@ladiescollege.ac.gg](mailto:bursar@ladiescollege.ac.gg)

- Please show consideration to our neighbours in Rocquettes Lane, Brock Road and near Perchard's Lane, when dropping off and collecting your daughter. These are the entrances and exit routes for students to College, and we have been asked by residents to remind you that they require access to and from their properties at all times. You may wish to collect your daughter 10 or 15 minutes after the end of the College day, or from a location a short distance away, to avoid being part of the inevitable congestion around our site.
- May I also remind you that parking on the single yellow line in Brock Road is not permitted.

### **Michaelmas Mark Reading 2018**

I am pleased to provide a copy of the *Student Achievements – Michaelmas Mark Reading 2018* document which highlights the great results and many achievements of our girls, celebrated just before the Christmas break.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries. The girls themselves are in good spirits and are, as ever, a delight to teach.



Ashley Clancy  
**Principal**